

HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

GIVING A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF

The Rise and Progress of the Denomination, together with Historical
Data Regarding the Organizations and Institutions
Connected Therewith.

ARRANGED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

IN attempting to collate matter from the records indicating the rise and progress of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, there are two obstacles which at first seem insurmountable: First, to determine what shall be selected from all the mass of periodic literature, of Conference proceedings, of editorial production, of the record of missionary effort, which have appeared during the past seventy years, and issued in various forms, in different parts of the country, and by many persons; and, second, after having begun the work of selecting the statements of the men who assisted in making the history what it is, the next and greater difficulty is to confine the selections within the limits of the space which may be used for this purpose, and still retain much of interest regarding the rise of the work in obscurity and poverty; of the hardships endured by the leaders and pioneers in this work; of its slow yet constant growth; of the battles waged regarding its concrete organization, and later the organization of its various departments; of the beautiful and harmonious doctrines that are clearly set forth in the publications issued; of the spread of the work to other lands; and of the ultimate triumph of the message, which has even been the goal before those who have been engaged in the work of the people brought out by the third angel's message.

In the following pages will be found one form of evidence as to the progress of this cause in the facts and figures cited. This cause, however, lives not in any figures, but in the hearts of its believers. But these figures furnish a source of gratification, indicating that the triumph of the message is near.

"The Advent cause owes its very existence to the first and second angels' messages of Revelation 14."—James White, in *Review and Herald*, Vol. II, No. 10, p. 76.

"We hold that the great movement upon the second advent question, which commenced with the writings and public lectures of William Miller, has been, in its leading features, in fulfillment of prophecy. Consistent with this view, we also hold that in the providence of God Mr. Miller was raised up to do a specific work."—James White, in Introduction to "Life of William Miller."

FIRST ANGEL'S MESSAGE.

William Miller embraced Christianity in September, 1816, and began immediately an exhaustive study of the Scriptures.

In 1818 he reached the conclusion that the second coming of Christ would take place about the year 1843. This view was based on the

vision or prophecy recorded and explained in the eighth and ninth chapters of Daniel.

After arriving at this startling conclusion, Mr. Miller spent five years more in a careful and thorough study of the whole question. This gave him unshaken confidence in the evidences and proofs upon which his conclusion was based.

1831: On the first Sunday in August, 1831, as nearly as can be determined, Mr. Miller preached his first sermon on the second coming of Christ, and the end of the world.

1832: His first written statement, announcing the coming of the Lord at the close of the 2300 years, in 1843, was a series of sixteen articles printed in the Vermont Telegraph, of Brandon, Vt., beginning May 15, 1832. His first pamphlet, giving an exposition of the prophecies and other Scriptures relating to the second advent, was printed in March, 1833. In the spring of 1836 he published at Troy, N. Y., his course of sixteen lectures in pamphlet form.

1833: September 14, Wm. Miller was granted a ministerial license from the Baptist Church.

1838: About the first of March, 1838, Josiah Litch, of Lowell, Mass., a Methodist minister and an able writer and speaker, embraced the views taught by William Miller, and began to proclaim them by voice and pen. He immediately issued a pamphlet of forty-eight pages entitled "The Midnight Cry." In June, he published a book of 204 pages, entitled "The Probability of the Second Coming of Christ, about A. D. 1843."

1839: During the first part of December, 1839, Joshua V. Himes, of Boston, Mass., joined William Miller and Josiah Litch in the proclamation of the Advent message. On taking his stand with Mr. Miller, he declared that "doors should be opened in every city in the Union, and the warning should go to the ends of the earth."

1840: On the 20th of March, 1840, J. V. Himes began, in Boston, Mass., the publication of the Signs of the Times. "The paper thus started was published for two years as a semimonthly," and then continued as a weekly.

The first "General Conference of Second Advent Believers" was convened in the Chardon Street Chapel, in Boston, Mass., October 15, 1840, and continued two days. The proceedings, together with the lectures delivered on the occasion, were published, and widely circulated.

1841: The second "General Conference of Advent Believers" was held in Lowell, Mass., June 15-17, 1841.

The third "General Conference of Christians expecting the advent of the Lord," was called to meet in Portland, Me., October 12, 1841, by "Josiah Litch, Henry Jones, D. I. Robinson, Wm. Miller, J. V. Himes, Committee."

Between that date and February 8, 1842, seven similar conferences were held in the New England States.

1842: "The Signs of the Times has not less than 50,000 readers." "More than 60,000 copies of various books and tracts have been issued from our establishment, and spread through the world in the four quarters of the globe, and the islands of the sea." "From three to four hundred ministers of the gospel are now engaged in giving the midnight cry."—Signs of the Times, March 15, 1842.

In the latter part of November, 1842, J. V. Himes began the publication, in New York City, of a daily paper, entitled The Midnight Cry; it was principally under the editorial supervision of

N. Southard. Twenty-four numbers were published, and ten thousand copies of each number circulated.

During the summer of 1842, series of tent meetings, with immense congregations, were held in Eastern Canada, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey. "It was a movement which shook the nation."

The winter of 1842 was spent by Elders Miller, Himes, Storrs, and others in a course of lectures in New York City. "The interest continued to increase beyond all expectation."

In December, 1842, Josiah Litch and A. Hale began public services in Philadelphia, under the most encouraging circumstances.

"In a manner too rapid to record, the Advent cause went forward during that winter."

1843: Different ministers conducted meetings in the South and West, going as far as Richmond, Va., Washington, D. C., Pittsburgh, Pa., and Cincinnati, Ohio. Many public laborers were brought into the faith, and began its proclamation. Papers devoted to the Advent cause were published in Cincinnati, Eastern Canada, Philadelphia, and Washington.

THE SECOND ANGEL'S MESSAGE.

"Call to Remembrance the Former Days."

"It is good to obey this injunction of the apostle, and call to remembrance the past experience in the Advent cause. Those who believe it to be the cause of God, should not reject the means that has made it a separate cause. . . . We say that the original faith is that which has made us a separate people. If we had never heard the judgment hour cry, which was based on definite time, we never should have been led to bear a testimony which, being rejected by our own brethren, made it necessary for us to separate from the churches. If the Advent people had closed their ears to the cry of the second angel (Rev. 14: 8), they would, as a general thing, have remained in the churches to this day. . . . And where would be the Advent cause, as it is called by some who reject the very means that has made it a separate cause?—It would not be in existence. . . . And if the Advent people who are now a separate people, had not heeded the cry of the second angel, but had remained in the different churches, they would probably have no more interest in the coming of the Lord than those now have who stayed in the church. . . . We say that the Advent cause owes its very existence to the first and second angels' messages of Revelation 14. Then why talk of the Advent cause being the cause of God, and at the same time call the means that gave it birth a mistake?"—James White, in *Review and Herald* of Jan. 13, 1852.

"When we commenced the work of giving the 'midnight cry' with Brother Miller in 1840, he had been lecturing nine years. During that time he stood almost alone. . . . He made no attempt to convert men to a sect, or party, in religion. Hence he labored among all parties and sects, without interfering with their organizations or discipline. . . . Most of the ministers and churches that opened their doors to us, and our brethren who were proclaiming the Advent doctrine, co-operated with us until the last year. The ministry and membership who availed themselves of our labors,

but had not sincerely embraced the doctrine, saw that they must either go with the doctrine, and preach and maintain it, or in the crisis which was right upon them they would have difficulty with the decided and determined believers. They therefore decided against the doctrine, and determined, some by one policy and some by another, to suppress the subject. This placed our brethren and sisters among them in a most trying position. Most of them loved their former privileges and enjoyments, and when the 'meat in due season' was withheld from them, and the siren song of 'peace and safety' was resounded in their ears from Sabbath to Sabbath, they were soon weaned from their party predilections, and arose in the majesty of their strength, shook off the yoke, and raised the cry, 'Come out of her, my people.' This state of things placed us in a trying position: 1. Because we were near the end of our prophetic time, in which we expected the Lord would gather all his people in one; 2. We had always preached a different doctrine, and now that the circumstances had changed, it would be regarded as dishonest in us, if we should unite in the cry of separation and breaking up of churches that had received us and our message. We therefore hesitated, and continued to act on our first position, until the church and ministry carried the matter so far, that we were obliged in the fear of God to take a position of defense for the truth and down-trodden children of God."—Joshua V. Himes, written at McConnellsville, Ohio, Aug. 29, 1844, and printed in the *Advent Herald*; quoted in the *Review and Herald* of Jan. 13, 1852.

1844: In 1844, Josiah Litch, writing upon the work that had been accomplished up to that time, in disseminating the doctrine of the second coming of Christ, said: "Within the last six years publications treating on the subject have been sent to nearly every English and American missionary station on the globe. . . . The Advent books have been greatly multiplied within the last four years. . . . The first and most important work published was Mr. Miller's Lectures. That volume may be regarded as the seed from which all the rest have germinated.

"The works of Miller, Ward, Hale, Bliss, Fitch, Storrs, Brown, Hervey, Cook, Whiting, Starkweather, Hawley, Litch, Fleming, Cox, Sabine, etc., constitute the Second Advent Library, and exhibit the views which have been presented to the public by the lecturers. Other sheets and pamphlets have been published."

"No cause of a moral or religious character, probably, ever made so rapid advance as the cause of Adventism." From the *Review and Herald*, published during April and May, 1856, at Battle Creek, Mich., being a republication from the *Advent Shield*, in 1844.

Oct. 22, 1844, marked the close of the 2300 years and the beginning of the cleansing of the sanctuary, or the judgment hour. On this day occurred the great disappointment of Revelation 10.

Of his labors and the visible results up to 1844, Mr. Miller wrote:—

"I labored extensively in all the New England and Middle States, in Ohio, Michigan, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and in Canada, East and West, giving about four thousand lectures in something like five hundred different towns."

"I should think that about two hundred ministers embraced my views, in all the different parts of the United States and Canada; and that there have been about five hundred public lecturers." "In nearly a thousand places, Advent congregations have

been raised up, numbering, as nearly as I can estimate, some fifty thousand believers. On recalling to mind the several places of my labors, I can reckon up about six thousand instances of conversion from nature's darkness to God's marvelous light, the result of my personal labors alone; and I should judge the number to be much greater." "In all my labors I never had the desire or thought to establish any separate interest from that of existing denominations, or to benefit one at the expense of another."—Wm. Miller, in "Life of Wm. Miller," pp. 360, 361.

"The Adventists were of all churches, and they had no idea of forming another church. After 'the time' passed, there was great confusion, and the majority were strongly opposed to any organization, holding that it was inconsistent with the perfect liberty of the gospel."—James White, in note to "Supplement to Experience and Views," p. 12; republished in "Early Writings."

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE.

1840: "In March, 1840, William Miller visited Portland, Me., and gave his first course of lectures on the second coming of Christ. . . . I attended these meetings."—Mrs. E. G. White, in "Life Sketches," p. 136.

1842: "In June, 1842, Mr. Miller gave his second course of lectures in the Casco Street [Methodist] church, in Portland. I felt it a great privilege to attend these lectures."—Idem., p. 148.

Elder James White attended the Advent camp-meeting in October, 1842, in Exeter, Me., and immediately prepared to go out into the great harvest-field, and do what he could in sounding the warning.

1843: About May, 1843, Elder James White was ordained, by "ministers of the Christian denomination," of which he was a member.

1844: "The Sabbath was first introduced to the attention of the Adventist people at Washington, N. H. A faithful Seventh-day Baptist sister, Mrs. Rachel D. Preston, from the State of New York, having removed to this place, brought with her the Sabbath of the Lord. Here she became interested in the doctrine of the glorious advent of the Saviour at hand. Being instructed in this subject by the Adventist people, she in turn instructed them in the commandments of God, and as early as 1844 nearly the entire church in that place, consisting of about forty persons, became observers of the Sabbath of the Lord. The oldest body of Sabbath-keepers among Seventh-day Adventists is therefore at Washington, N. H."—J. N. Andrews, in "History of the Sabbath," p. 506.

"From this place, several Adventist ministers received the Sabbath truth during the year 1844. One of these was Elder T. M. Preble, who has the honor of first bringing this great truth before the Adventists through the medium of the press. His essay was dated February 13, 1845," written at East Weare, N. H., and appeared in the Hope of Israel, of February 28, 1845, published at Portland, Me. This article was reprinted in the Review and Herald, August 23, 1870. The article was rewritten by Elder Preble in March, 1845, and published in tract form, and was printed in the Review of December 21, 1869.—Idem, p. 506.

"Within a few months, many persons began to observe the Sabbath as the result of the light thus shed on their pathway. Elder J. B. Cook, a man of decided talent as a preacher and a writer, was one of these early converts to the Sabbath. Elders Preble and Cook . . . were called in the providence of God to fill an important place in the work of Sabbath reform. But both of them, while preaching and writing in its behalf, committed the fatal error of making it of no practical importance. . . . After two or three years of this kind of Sabbath observance, each of these men apostatized from it, and thenceforward used what influence they possessed in warring against the fourth commandment. The larger part of those who embraced the Sabbath from their labors were not sufficiently impressed with its importance to become settled and grounded in its weighty evidences, and after a brief period they also turned back from its observance."—Idem, p. 507.

"Elder Preble's first article in behalf of the Sabbath was the means of calling the attention of our venerable brother, Joseph Bates, to this divine institution. He soon became convinced of its obligation, and at once began to observe it." "The subject of the heavenly sanctuary began about this time to interest many Adventists, and especially Elder Bates. He was one of the first to see that the central object of that sanctuary is the ark of God. He also called attention to the proclamation of the third angel relative to God's commandments."—Idem, p. 508.

Wm. J. 1845
Dec. 1844 1845: In 1845 occurred the first vision given to Mrs. E. G. White (whose name at that time was Ellen G. Harmon), and was first published in 1846. It was published later in "Experience and Views," and may be found on pp. 9-15 of "Early Writings."

1846: "While on a visit to New Bedford, Mass., in 1846, I became acquainted with Elder Joseph Bates. . . . Elder Bates was keeping the Sabbath, and urged its importance. I did not feel its importance, and thought that Elder B. erred in dwelling upon the fourth commandment more than upon the other nine. But the Lord gave me a view of the heavenly sanctuary. . . . I was shown that the third angel proclaiming the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus represents the people who receive this message and raise the voice of warning to the world, to keep the commandments of God and his law as the apple of the eye, and that in response to this warning many would embrace the Sabbath of the Lord."—Mrs. E. G. White, in "Life Sketches," pp. 236, 237.

"Brother Bates wrote and circulated gratuitously a small work on the Sabbath, which confirmed us on the subject."—James White, in Review and Herald, Vol. II, No. 8, p. 61, Dec. 3, 1857.

"In the autumn of 1846 we began to observe the Bible Sabbath, and to teach and defend it."—Mrs. E. G. White, in "Testimonies to the Church," Vol. I, p. 75.

PUBLISHING WORK BEGUN.

The first document ever printed by any person connected with this denomination was a two-page leaflet written by Ellen G. Harmon (who, on August 30, 1846, was married to James White), addressed "To the Remnant Scattered Abroad," and bearing date of April 6, 1846. Two hundred fifty copies were issued, the ex-

pense of which was borne by James White and H. S. Gurney.

The second publication was a tract of 40 pages, entitled, "The Opening Heavens," by Joseph Bates. The preface of this tract is dated May 8, 1846.

In the autumn of 1846 Joseph Bates published a pamphlet of 48 pages, under the title "The Seventh-Day Sabbath a Perpetual Sign." This appears to have been printed in the month of August.

In the month of April, 1847, Joseph Bates published a tract of 80 pages, entitled "Second Advent Way-Marks and High Heaps."

The first tract published by James White contained 24 pages, and was entitled "A Word to the Little Flock." The preface was dated May 30, 1847.

The next document of which we have any knowledge is a one-page sheet about 10 by 16 inches, addressed "To Those who are Receiving the Seal of the Living God." It is signed by E. G. White, Topsham, Me., January 30, 1849.

- 1847: The year 1847 was spent by the three leaders in the third angel's message, Elder Joseph Bates, Elder James White, and Mrs. E. G. White, in instructing and encouraging the scattered companies of Advent believers.

FIRST GENERAL MEETING OF SABBATH-KEEPERS.

- 1848: The first general meeting of Sabbath-keepers was held at the home of S. T. Belden, April 20 and 21, 1848, at Rocky Hill, eight miles from Middletown, Conn., with about thirty present.

The second similar meeting was held in Volney, N. Y., August, 1848, in a barn belonging to D. Arnold, and was attended by about thirty-five. "There were hardly two agreed." Here the work of uniting the brethren on the great truths connected with the message of the third angel commenced.

PUBLICATION OF PAPER BEGUN.

- 1849: In July, 1849, James White began the publication of a paper called the Present Truth, at Middletown, Conn. This paper was published semimonthly, four numbers being issued in Middletown, from July to September, 1849. The fifth and sixth numbers were issued in Oswego, N. Y., in December, 1849; the seventh and eighth numbers in Oswego, in March, 1850; the ninth and tenth numbers in Oswego during April and May, 1850; the eleventh number in Paris, Me., in November, 1850. The Present Truth was then discontinued. Total pages, 88; size of printed page, 5 x 8 inches.

A general meeting was held at Paris, Me., September 14, and attended by J. N. Andrews, who, it appears, then publicly took his stand on the truth.

A conference was held at Oswego, November 3. "We then decided that it was our duty to labor in the State of New York. My husband felt a burden upon him to write and publish. We rented a house in Oswego, borrowed furniture from our brethren, and commenced housekeeping. There my husband wrote, published, and preached."—Mrs. E. G. White, in "Life Sketches," page 265.

- 1850: In November, 1850, the Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald was published in Paris, Me., with Joseph Bates, S. W. Rhodes,

J. N. Andrews, and James White as publishing committee. "Terms — Gratis, except the reader desires to aid in its publication."

The term "second advent" used to designate special work and message.

1851: "During the eight months [Nov., 1850, to June, 1851] of the publishing of the Review, eight new names were added to the list of ministers who gave themselves more or less to preaching the truth of the third angel's message. Among these were S. W. Rhodes, Hiram Edson, F. Wheeler, E. P. Butler, and J. N. Andrews."—"Rise and Progress," p. 159.

From November, 1850, to June 9, 1851, thirteen numbers of the paper were issued in Paris, Me., with the title, Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald. The last issue states: "It seems duty to suspend the publication of the paper for a few weeks, to attend the Conferences at Camden and Milton, N. Y., and visit other places as the way may open."

August 5, 1851, from Saratoga Springs, N. Y., appeared the first number of the Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, as Vol. 2, No. 1, with James White as editor, and Joseph Bates, Hiram Edson, and J. N. Andrews as publishing committee.

Annie R. Smith took her stand for the truth, and in August connected with the Review office as a worker, at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., chiefly as a proofreader. "For three years she labored faithfully and effectively, for board and clothing only. At the end of this period, consumption had marked her for its victim."

From the above date to March 23, 1852, fourteen numbers were issued semimonthly. The last number contains the report of the first conference called to consider the publishing work, held at Ballston, N. Y., March 12-15, 1852, at which it was voted that the Review and Herald should be published at Rochester, N. Y. The first issue from that place bears date of May 6, 1852, being No. 1 of Volume 3.

During the publication of Vol. 2 of the Review [Aug. 5, 1851, to March 23, 1852] the following-named persons accepted the truth: R. F. Cottrell, C. W. Sperry, W. S. Ingraham, Joseph Baker, and other public speakers, eight in all.—"Rise and Progress," p. 164.

August, 1851, "Experiences and Views," first published at Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

REMOVAL TO ROCHESTER, N. Y.

1852: May 6, 1852, the first number of Vol. 3 of the Advent Review and Sabbath Herald was printed in Rochester, N. Y., on a Washington hand-press, with type owned by Seventh-day Adventists; the total cost of press and material being \$652.93, and the contributions for that purpose being \$655.84.

From May 6, 1852 to May 12, 1853, the following-named persons accepted the Sabbath truth, and began public labor in its behalf: J. H. Waggoner, A. S. Hutchins, M. E. Cornell, J. M. Stephenson, D. P. Hall, J. B. Frisbie, Albert Stone, M. G. Kellogg, T. M. Steward, U. Smith, and J. N. Loughborough.

No. 1, Vol. 1, of the Youth's Instructor appeared in August, 1852.

The first general meeting held at Rochester, N. Y., after the removal of the printing plant there, was called by G. W. Holt, "in behalf of the brethren," and met at 124 Mount Hope Ave.,

September 25 and 26, 1852. This meeting was attended by the following ministers: S. W. Rhodes, J. N. Andrews, Ira Wyman, W. S. Ingraham, G. W. Holt. At that meeting J. N. Loughborough took his stand upon the truth, and kept the following Sabbath, October 7. His first contribution to the *Review and Herald* bears date of October 25, and appears in the issue of that paper the 28th.

"For want of room it has been necessary to move our office from one of the rooms of our 'own hired house,' to South St. Paul Street, Stone's Block, No. 21, Third floor."—*Review and Herald*, Oct. 14, 1852.

An important series of articles on the Sabbath question was written by J. N. Andrews, and issued in the *Review and Herald* from May to August, 1852.

Elder U. Smith observed the first Sabbath in December, 1852. Connected with the *Review Office* in Rochester, N. Y., May 3, 1853.

- 1853: "With the opening of Vol. 4, [May 26, 1853] appeared a slight semblance of a price for the publications, in these words: 'To those wishing to pay, \$1 for a volume of twenty-six numbers.' With the issuing of the sixth number of this volume, the *Review* began to be published as a weekly, and from that date, August 4, its influence greatly increased. It was in the columns of this volume that a treatise on the evidences of our faith was published, which was afterward put into pamphlet form, and sold at ten cents per copy, being the first book upon which a price was fixed. It was that most excellent pamphlet, 'The Signs of the Times,' written by Elder James White, which, under God, has been the means of converting scores, if not hundreds, to the truth. The first article appeared August 11, 1853, in No. 7 of the *Review*."—J. N. Loughborough, in "Rise and Progress," p. 193.

A conference of believers was convened at 109 Monroe St., Rochester, N. Y., July 16-19, attended by James White, Joseph Bates, W. S. Ingraham, J. N. Andrews, J. B. Frisbie, G. W. Holt, H. W. Lawrence. "The principal object of this meeting was to consider the interest of the church of Christ, our present duty as a people, and the best plans to advance the cause of truth." "The subject of the best plan to circulate our publications was introduced, and after remarks were made on the subject, a committee was chosen to prepare a report." This report covered two points, namely, the sale of tracts at first cost, instead of being distributed gratuitously, as had been the case; and, second, that the *Review and Herald* should be published weekly.—*Review and Herald*, August 4, 1853.

- 1854: The first tent-meeting held under the proclamation of the third angel's message was conducted by Elders J. N. Loughborough and M. E. Cornell. The tent was pitched on the southeast corner of Tompkins and Van Buren Streets, Battle Creek, Mich., and meetings begun June 10, and closed June 12, 1854.

A conference was held at 109 Monroe St., Rochester, N. Y., June 23-26. Reports rendered indicated the rapid spread of the message, especially in the West. Among the decisions arrived at was the change in price of the *Review and Herald* from \$1.50 to \$1.00 per year. Publishing Committee of the *Review and Herald* changed to J. N. Andrews, R. F. Cottrell, and Uriah Smith, with Jas. White as editor.—*Review and Herald*, July 4, 1854.

REMOVAL OF REVIEW AND HERALD OFFICE TO BATTLE CREEK, MICH.

1855: "September 23, 1855, a meeting of those interested in establishing the Advent Review office in Michigan, was held at Battle Creek, when Elder J. B. Frisbie was chosen chairman, and A. A. Dodge secretary, and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

"1. That the Advent Review office still remain the property of the church.

"2. That the Advent Review office be moved to Battle Creek, Mich.

"3. That a Financial Committee of three be chosen, whose duty it shall be to move the office, and publish the Advent Review.

"4. That D. R. Palmer of Jackson, Henry Lyon and Cyrenius Smith of Battle Creek, be the Financial Committee.

"5. That the Committee call on the church at large to send in their free-will offerings to defray the expenses of moving the Advent Review office, and to replenish the office with those things necessary in editing and publishing the Advent Review.

"6. That the Committee proposes through the Advent Review a plan on which the editorial department of the Advent Review shall be conducted, requesting those interested, in the several States, to speak out on the subject by letter to the Committee—either to adopt, amend, or reject the plan and suggest another—and that, if necessary, the Committee call a meeting of delegates from different parts of the field to choose an editor, or editors, to conduct the Advent Review.

"7. That the doings of this meeting be published in the Advent Review."—From the Review and Herald, Oct. 2, 1855.

In the Review and Herald of October 16 appeared an article signed by Henry Lyon, Cyrenius Smith, and D. R. Palmer, containing the following statements:—

"At a meeting held in Battle Creek, Sept. 23, 1855, we were chosen a Financial Committee, to move the office to this State, and to publish the Advent Review. . . . We shall, Providence permitting, move the office, and commence the publication of the Review weekly this fall. Four brethren have purchased a building lot, and are erecting a building suitable for the printing office, editor's room, etc. The expenses of moving the office, including boxing up press, type, etc., freight from Rochester to Battle Creek, and a loss on some things not movable, and others not worth moving (which will have to be got new at Battle Creek), will be about \$200. The friends of the cause are now invited to send in their free-will offerings to this amount, for the above-named object, to Henry Lyon, Battle Creek, Mich.

BUSINESS PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE AT BATTLE CREEK, MICH.

"Brethren assembled in Conference at Battle Creek, Nov. 16, 1855, according to appointment in Review of October 16. Elder Joseph Bates was chosen chairman. Letters from different parts of the field relative to the business of the meeting were read. All were in harmony with the proposals heretofore made in the

Review. In the business transactions of this Conference, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

"1. That a committee be appointed to investigate the financial condition of the Review office.

"2. That Henry Lyon, David Hewett, and Wm. M. Smith, of Battle Creek, be that committee.

"3. That this Conference sanction the proceedings of the previous Conference of Sept. 23, 1855, and that the committee then chosen hold in trust the press for the benefit of the church.

"4. That Uriah Smith be resident editor of the Advent Review.

"5. That J. N. Andrews, of Iowa, James White, and J. H. Waggoner, of Michigan, R. F. Cottrell, of New York, and Stephen Pierce, of Vermont, be corresponding editors.

"6. That after the investigation of the affairs of the Review office, the financial committee pay Brother White for materials which he has placed in the office above what was first donated, and call on the church for the amount, that he may be able to meet the debts he has incurred in placing this material in the office.

"7. That Brother White be subject to the advice of the financial or publishing committee, in the management of the publication and sale of books.

"8. That a vote of thanks be tendered to Brother White for his valuable services as an editor, in spreading the light of present truth.

"9. That Joseph Bates, J. H. Waggoner, and M. E. Cornell be appointed to address the saints in behalf of the Conference, on the gifts of the church.

"10. That the following unanimous expression of the brethren assembled, be published with the proceedings of the Conference, in the Advent Review:—

"Whereas, Inquiries have been made as to what course we designed to pursue in the future, in reference to the misstatements of the enemies of present truth, therefore, for the information and satisfaction of the brethren abroad,—

Resolved, That we henceforth devote ourselves exclusively to the advocacy and defense of the present truth, committing ourselves in all things to Him who judgeth righteously, after the example of our Pattern, in affliction and in patience."

JOSEPH BATES, Chairman.

URIAH SMITH, Secretary."

— Review and Herald, Dec. 4, 1855.

The first number of the Review and Herald issued in Battle Creek, Mich., was dated, Dec. 4, 1855. This number contains the salutation of Uriah Smith as editor, which position he held at the time of his death, March 6, 1903.

Death of Annie R. Smith, July 26, 1855.

1856: The business meeting of a special Conference was held May 26, 1856, convened upon the call of J. B. Frisbie and James White, at Battle Creek, Mich., and in behalf of the Battle Creek church. Ministers present: Jas. White, Joseph Bates, J. Byington, J. Hart, J. H. Waggoner, and others. Joseph Bates chosen Moderator, and U. Smith, Secretary.

Important decisions: That tents should be sent into new fields and sustained, and that they should be manned by volunteers. That "Brethren C. S. Glover, J. P. Kellogg, D. R. Palmer, C. Smith, and J. R. Lewis be a Tent Committee to whom all tent operations in this State [Michigan] should be referred; that J. P. Kellogg be tent treasurer for this State.

"A history of the publishing of the present truth from the commencement was related by Brother White; and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

That the church receive the books from Brother White; that, on account of ill health, and upon his request, Henry Lyon be released as one of the Publishing Committee of the Advent Review, and that Brother J. P. Kellogg, of Battle Creek, be chosen in his place; that the Publishing Committee of the Review be also the committee which shall have charge of the Church Book Fund.

Arrangements made for the payment of the debts incurred in the publication of Vol. 7 of the Review and the removal of the office from Rochester, N. Y., to Battle Creek, Mich.; an increased circulation of the Review recommended; "that James White, J. H. Waggoner, and U. Smith be a committee of three, to prepare a tract on the subject of the Sabbath, to be printed in German;" "that Brother J. H. Waggoner address the Church at large in behalf of the Conference."—Review and Herald, May 29, 1856.

The name of S. N. Haskell first appears in the Review of Jan. 31, 1856.

1857: A conference was called by J. P. Kellogg, James White, and C. Smith, to convene in Battle Creek church April 10, 1857. On the 12th the business proceedings were held. Joseph Bates was chosen Chairman, and U. Smith, Secretary.

"The points to come before the Conference for consideration were not numerous." "Resolved that a power press be obtained for the Review office," the purchasing of which was referred to the Publishing Committee.

The committee appointed to prepare a tract on the Sabbath question for Germans were urged to publish the same.

"The subject of a meeting house in Battle Creek, sufficiently large to accommodate such conferences as it will probably be necessary to convene from time to time at this place, was next considered. The necessity for this was very sensibly felt by most of those present. It was therefore—

"Resolved, That a house that will conveniently seat about three or four hundred people, is much needed in this place, and should be erected as soon as possible."—Review and Herald, April 16, 1857.

In the Review and Herald of July 23, 1857, James White wrote that about "ten years ago we published the first number of the little sheet called Present Truth. Then Sabbath-keepers who were looking for the second coming of Christ numbered about one hundred. We sent the first number of the Present Truth to all that we could hope would read it, and took them to the postoffice in a carpet bag. The few believers were generally poor, and but three among them who publicly taught the truth, and two of them could not give themselves wholly to the work for want of means."

"Probably it will require from \$2500 to \$3000 to purchase the power press, and put it in motion. Of this sum \$1700 have been

pledged, in sums of \$100 each, by seventeen persons, eleven of them in this State."—Review and Herald, May 7, 1857.

The business session of an important Conference was held Nov. 9, 1857, at Battle Creek, Mich., Joseph Bates, Chairman; Uriah Smith, Secretary.

"The attention of the Conference was first called to the subject of the meeting house [in Battle Creek]. The report of the building committee was read, by which it appears that the whole cost of the house is \$881.39." Approval was expressed regarding the purchase of the press and engine for producing publications "like the leaves of autumn." "The only question that remains is, Will the church act their part in their circulation?"

"Third subject brought before the meeting was the publication of the paper and the book business. These have heretofore been kept separate and distinct. . . . It was —

"Resolved, That the publication of the Review and Herald, and of the books be united as one concern."

"Resolved, That a Committee of Revision be appointed, through whose hands all matter designed for publication in book form shall pass, and under whose sanction it shall be issued; by which means an individual responsibility in the publication of books will be avoided, and confidence be placed in whatever shall be thus published, as the voice of the body.

"Resolved, That Brethren J. H. Waggoner, James White, and J. B. Frisbie be this committee."

1858: A conference was called by James White, J. N. Loughborough, and J. B. Frisbie, "Conference Committee," to convene in Battle Creek, Mich., May 21, 1858. "There were present of those who publicly advocated the third angel's message, Brethren Bates, White, Waggoner, Cottrell, Byington, Loughborough, Rhodes, Cornell, Frisbie, Wheeler, Lawrence, Hutchins, Sperry, and Butler."

J. White, U. Smith, and C. Smith were appointed as a committee on publication of works in foreign languages.—Review and Herald, May 27, 1858.

There was held in Battle Creek, Mich., in the month of April, 1858 a Bible class, conducted by Elder J. N. Andrews, whose object was to learn what the Scriptures teach concerning the support of the ministry. This effort resulted in the suggestion to our people of the plan called "Systematic Benevolence," on the tithing principle.

1859: Business proceedings of a special Conference held June 4-6, in a tent in Battle Creek, Mich. Twelve ministers present. There being no organized Conferences, there were no appointed delegates. Joseph Bates, Chairman; Uriah Smith, Secretary.

Important actions: Unanimous approval of the plan of systematic benevolence introduced in an address by Elder Jas. White; took steps to raise \$500 for conducting tent work in Michigan; "That Jas. White, J. P. Kellogg, and Cyrenius Smith constitute a Missionary Board, to manage all funds which any brethren may appropriate for missionary purposes."

1860: February 23, first article by Elder James White, suggesting organization.—Review and Herald, Feb. 23, 1860.

A conference convened in Battle Creek, Mich., Sept. 28 to Oct. 1: Leading questions considered: Publishing interests; organization of denomination to hold property; adoption of constitution for pub-

lishing association, with legal title, "The Advent Review Publishing Association," suggested.

October 1, adopted the name Seventh-day Adventist. Joseph Bates, Chairman; U. Smith, Secretary.—Review and Herald, October 9, 16, and 23, 1860.

1861: A Conference convened in Battle Creek, Mich., April 26, with nine ministers present. J. Bates, Chairman; U. Smith, Secretary.

Important actions: Organization of the publishing association considered, and Jas. White, J. N. Loughborough, U. Smith, G. W. Amadon, and M. Hull appointed as a committee to organize association; new office building for publishing work contemplated; name of association changed to: "The Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Association;" conduct of tent work in Michigan; question of more complete organization of the church introduced by J. N. Loughborough.

May 3, S. D. A. Publishing Association incorporated.

ORGANIZATION OF CHURCHES.

A Conference was held in Battle Creek, Mich., October 5 and 6, seven ministers being present.

"The first business presented was the organization of churches. Brother [J. N.] Loughborough said: 'I consider it proper and necessary to consider here the organization of churches, as the subject has been agitated among us, especially for the last six months; and in order to bring the matter before the meeting, I move that we consider the proper manner of organizing churches.' Seconded by Brother [Jas.] White. Carried. Brother White then presented the following resolution:—

"Resolved, That this Conference recommend the following church covenant: We, the undersigned, hereby associate ourselves together, as a church, taking the name, Seventh-day Adventists, covenanting to keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus Christ."

"Resolved, That we recommend to the churches in the State of Michigan to unite in one Conference, with the name of The Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Adopted."

The following officers were named: Joseph Bates, Chairman; U. Smith, Secretary; Conference Committee, J. N. Loughborough, Moses Hull, and M. E. Cornell.

"Resolved, That the first session of the Michigan State Conference of Seventh-day Adventists be held at Monterey, Mich., Oct. 5-8, 1862. Adopted."

Annual ministerial credentials provided, also certificates of ordination.

1862: During the early part of 1862 the question of the permanent organization of a General Conference was agitated, and articles in favor of such organization published in the Review and Herald.

The Michigan Conference and the Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Association having been organized during 1861, and sessions of these organizations called to meet at Monterey, Michigan, October 4 and 5, 1862, there was no session of the General Conference as such during this year. However, in the proceedings of the Michigan Conference just referred to, matters of a general nature were brought in, inasmuch as this was the first State Conference that had been organized.

"Moved by Brother Loughborough that the next State Conference be held at Battle Creek, Mich., October 2-5, 1863. Carried.

"Resolved, That we invite the several State Conferences to meet with us, by delegate, in general conference, at our next annual Conference. Adopted."—Review and Herald, October 14, 1862.

"It is the opinion of several brethren, whose judgment we have reason to respect, that the best time for a General Conference would be the last of May next, or the first of June, instead of next October."—James White, in Review and Herald, March 10, 1863.

For three or four years previous to this time there had been considerable discussion going on regarding the question of organization of a General Conference and of State Conferences. Accordingly, the next May (1863), the General Conference was formally organized, although for a number of years it had been doing work in a practical way.

ORGANIZATION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

1863: The organization of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was effected at a meeting held in Battle Creek, Mich., May 20-23, 1863. This meeting was called by James White, J. N. Loughborough, and John Byington.

The following duly elected delegates were present, representing the States named:—

New York: J. N. Andrews, N. Fuller, C. O. Taylor, and J. M. Aldrich.

Ohio: I. N. Van Gorder and H. F. Baker.

Michigan: James White, Joseph Bates, J. H. Waggoner, John Byington, J. N. Loughborough, Moses Hull, M. E. Cornell, R. J. Lawrence, James Harvey, and W. S. Higley, Jr.

Wisconsin: Isaac Sanborn.

Iowa: B. F. Snook and W. H. Brinkerhoof.

Minnesota: Washington Morse.

Committees appointed: For General Conference Constitution: J. N. Andrews, N. Fuller, I. Sanborn, W. Morse, H. F. Baker, B. F. Snook, J. H. Waggoner, J. N. Loughborough.

For State Conference Constitution: J. N. Loughborough, I. Sanborn, W. H. Brinkerhoof, J. M. Aldrich, and W. Morse.

A constitution of nine articles was adopted; no By-laws were passed.

In defining the duty of the Executive Committee, Article 5 says: "They shall take the special supervision of all missionary labor, and as a missionary board shall have the power to decide where such labor is needed, and who shall go as missionaries to perform the same."

The basis of representation by delegates from State Conferences was made as follows:—

"Each State Conference shall be entitled to one delegate in the General Conference, and one additional delegate for every twenty delegates in the State Conference."

At the same Conference a constitution was adopted for State Conferences, the delegate representation provided being as follows:—

"Each church to the number of twenty members or under shall

be entitled to one delegate, and one delegate for every additional fifteen members."

According to this arrangement the basis of representation at the General Conference was one delegate for the State Conference, and one additional delegate for every 350 members of the State Conference.

The committee on nominations reported as follows: Pres., James White; Sec., Uriah Smith; Treas., E. S. Walker; Ex. Com., James White, John Byington, J. N. Loughborough.

Although unanimously elected president, James White declined to serve, and John Byington was elected in his place.

The nominations for Secretary and Treasurer were ratified. J. N. Andrews and G. W. Amadon were chosen to act with the President as members of the Executive Committee.

It was voted to publish a new prophetic chart, and also a chart of the ten commandments suitable for public lectures.

DATE OF ORGANIZATION OF FIRST LOCAL CONFERENCES.

Michigan, Oct. 5, 1861.

Southern Iowa, March 16, 1862.

Northern Iowa, May 10, 1862.

Vermont, June 15, 1862.

Illinois and Wisconsin, Sept. 28, 1862.

Minnesota, Oct. 4, 1862.

New York, Oct. 25, 1862.

Southern and Northern Iowa Conferences united as the Iowa Conference, Jan. 25, 1863.

General Conference, May 20-23, 1863.

Ohio, May 31, 1863.

Illinois and Wisconsin State Conference, Oct. 3, 1863. "Voted, To annul last year's conference organization, and to adopt the constitution recommended by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists assembled at Battle Creek, Mich., May 20, 1863."

Maine, Nov. 1, 1867.

No other Conferences were organized until the year 1871, when Illinois (June 9), Wisconsin (June 22), and New England (Aug. 24), were organized.

- 1864: Second session of the General Conference called at Battle Creek, Mich., May 18. "Duly elected and authorized delegates were present from New England, the New York and Pennsylvania State Conference, Ohio, Michigan, the Illinois and Wisconsin State Conference, and Minnesota. Brother Geo. I. Butler, of Waukon, Iowa, . . . was received as a delegate from that State. J. H. Waggoner was also received as a delegate to the Conference in behalf of Ohio, where he has labored mostly during the past year."

Important actions: Recommendation to State Conferences to secure lay members to assist in auditing accounts of laborers; Vermont Conference admitted as member of General Conference; "from all parts of the field, with the exception of Minnesota, the reports were encouraging, and the prospects represented as most cheering."

Officers elected: President, John Byington; Secretary, U. Smith; Treasurer, E. S. Walker; Executive Committee, John Byington, G. W. Amadon, and J. N. Loughborough.

- 1865: The third annual session of the General Conference was held in

Battle Creek, Mich., May 17. "Delegates were present from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, New York, and Vermont, the remainder of New England being represented by J. N. Loughborough." "The reports were encouraging, and showed a cheering state of the cause in all parts of the field."

Important actions: Constitution amended; religious discussions disapproved; voting; the bearing of arms; our duty to the government; that the President of the General Conference should attend sessions of State Conferences; the building of meeting-house in Battle Creek for sessions of Conference; that labor for the colored people should be entered upon; that blanks be prepared for the use of churches, ministers, etc.; in making their reports.

Officers elected: President, James White; Secretary, U. Smith; Treasurer, I. D. Van Horn; Executive Committee, James White, J. N. Andrews, J. N. Loughborough.

- 1866: The fourth annual session of the General Conference was held in Battle Creek, Mich., May 16 and 17. "Delegates were present from Michigan, New York, Vermont, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Ohio. With the exception of Vermont, which was represented by her own delegate, New England was represented by the returned missionaries, J. N. Andrews and M. E. Cornell. Minnesota was represented by letter."

Important actions: G. W. Amadon requested to prepare question books for the use of Sabbath-schools; issuing of revival hymns referred to G. C. Com.; resolutions passed concerning dress; defec-tion of Snook and Brinkerhoof, of Iowa; expulsion of church-mem-bers by two-thirds vote; companies of believers entitled to delegate representation in sessions; "that we acknowledge the health reform as set forth in the testimony of Sister White as part of the work of God incumbent on us at this time," and request Dr. H. S. Lay to furnish articles on the health reform; statistics required of churches and local conferences; ministers to furnish "a written report of each day's occupation;" lay members to assist in auditing; "that when a member takes a letter of commendation from a church, it is the judgment of this Conference that he remains a member of that church, till he becomes a member of another church; and that he should pay his systematic benevolence [tithe] accordingly, giving due notice when he joins the church of another place."

Officers elected: Pres., James White; Sec., U. Smith; Treas., I. D. Van Horn; Ex. Com., James White, J. N. Andrews, J. N. Loughborough.

- 1867: Fifth session of the General Conference convened in Battle Creek, Mich., May 14, with eighteen delegates present, representing seven conferences and one mission.

Important actions: Constitution amended; recommended changes in State Conference constitutions; that members of the General Conference Committee attend sessions of State Conferences; that the ordinances of the Christian church belong only to those who accept the duties and responsibilities of church membership; that the Review be enlarged to 16 pages, at \$3 a year; that the Youth's Instructor be published every two weeks; that steps be taken to secure a church hymnal; "that we recognize the hand of God in the successful establishment of the Health Institute;" "that we recommend to our sisters the Reformed Dress set forth in Testimony No. 11, and now in use at the Health Institute;" that the Health

Reform Institute be requested to prepare a work on the structure, functions, and care of the human system; that G. W. Amadon prepare a series of question books for Sabbath-schools and Bible classes.

Officers elected: Pres., J. N. Andrews; Sec., U. Smith; Treas., I. D. Van Horn; Ex. Com., J. N. Andrews, J. N. Loughborough, J. M. Aldrich.

ORGANIZATION OF HEALTH REFORM INSTITUTE.

"On Friday, May 17, 1867, at 9-A. M., a good number of stockholders in the Health Reform Institute met in Battle Creek, Mich., at the S. D. A. meeting-house, as per appointment in the Review. Prayer by Brother Andrews, followed by the reading of the law of the State, by Brother Loughborough, which provides for the organization of such corporations, with an explanation of the necessary preliminary steps which had already been taken toward organizing the Institute."

"We, the undersigned, do hereby associate ourselves together, and do hereby organize ourselves into a corporation under the corporate name of Health Reform Institute, and we do hereby adopt and subscribe the following Articles of Association, to wit:—

"I. The purpose for which this corporation is formed is the treatment of disease and imparting instruction in the principles of hygiene for compensation, and also for purposes of benevolence and charity.

"II. The amount of the capital stock of said corporation is one hundred thousand dollars, and the number of shares of said capital stock is four thousand of twenty-five dollars each.

"III. The amount of the capital stock actually paid in is seventeen hundred and fifty dollars.

"IV. The names of the stockholders, their respective residences, and the number of shares of the capital stock held by each is as follows, viz.:—

Names.	Residence.	No. of Shares.
John P. Kellogg,	Battle Creek, Mich.	22
Calvin Green,	Battle Creek, Mich.	20
Jotham M. Aldrich,	Battle Creek, Mich.	11
Albert Kellogg,	Battle Creek, Mich.	4
Horatio S. Lay,	Battle Creek, Mich.	3
John F. Byington,	Battle Creek, Mich.	2
Uriah Smith,	Battle Creek, Mich.	2
Orrin B. Jones,	Battle Creek, Mich.	2
Noah N. Lunt,	Battle Creek, Mich.	2
J. N. Loughborough,	Battle Creek, Mich.	2

The act under which this corporation was formed was passed by the Michigan Legislature March 13, the preliminary steps taken for organizing April 9, and completed May 17, 1867.—Review and Herald, May 28, 1867.

Health Reform Institute (Battle Creek Sanitarium) opened for patients, Sept. 5, 1867.

1868: Sixth annual session of the General Conference convened in Battle Creek, Mich., May 12, with fifteen delegates present, representing eight conferences and one mission.

Important actions: That Dr. M. G. Kellogg labor in behalf of the cause of health reform; that annual State conferences be held in connection with general camp-meetings; that arrangements be made for lectures from Dr. Trall on health subjects; that the preparation of hymn-book be referred to the General Conference Committee; subject of dress further considered; "Brother J. N. Loughborough spoke of strong impressions and dreams in regard to California;" organization of S. D. A. Benevolent Association.

Officers elected: Pres., Jas. White; Sec., M. S. Burnham; Treas., U. Smith; Ex. Com., James White, J. N. Andrews, and S. H. King. First, California State gathering of Seventh-day Adventists near Santa Rosa, April 10, 11.

Association of ten sisters in South Lancaster, Mass., as first "Vigilant Missionary Society."—Spring of 1868. This led to organization of tract societies, the first being organized in 1870.

First general camp-meeting held at Wright, Mich., Sept. 1-7.

- 1869: Seventh session held May 18 in Battle Creek, Mich. Seven conferences represented, and two missions, by 16 delegates.

Leading work: Recommendations regarding health reform, dress reform, spiritual gifts, fraternal exchange with Seventh-day Baptists, and the holding of State camp-meetings; amendment to constitution; organization of S. D. A. Missionary Society, for distribution of papers, books, etc.

Officers elected: Pres., James White; Sec., U. Smith; Treas., E. S. Walker; Ex. Com., James White, J. N. Andrews, J. H. Waggoner.

- 1870: Eighth session of the General Conference, convened in Battle Creek, Mich., March 15. Twenty-two delegates, representing eight conferences and three missions.

Important action: Approval of spiritual gifts; formation of New England Conference recommended.

Officers elected: Pres., James White; Sec., U. Smith; Treas., G. H. Bell; Ex. Com., James White, J. N. Andrews, J. H. Waggoner. Nov. 6, 1870, the New England Conference organized the first conference "missionary and tract society."

- 1871: The ninth annual session of the General Conference convened in Battle Creek, Mich., Feb. 7, with seventeen delegates present, representing eleven conferences and two missions.

Important actions: Fourteen camp-meetings called for by delegates; "that we reaffirm our abiding confidence in the Testimonies of Sister White to the church, as the teaching of the Spirit of God."

Officers elected: Pres., James White; Sec., U. Smith; Treas., Mrs. A. P. Van Horn; Ex. Com., James White, J. N. Andrews, W. H. Littlejohn.

- 1872: The tenth annual session of the General Conference convened in Battle Creek, Mich., Dec. 29, 1871, with fourteen delegates present, representing twelve conferences and one mission.

Important actions: Resolutions acknowledging providence of God in the fundamental truths constituting this message; Health Institute (B. C. Sanitarium) recommended; that Indiana be separated from the Michigan Conference, and organized as a separate Conference; "the formation of Tract and Missionary Societies was recommended, and a committee appointed, with Brother S. N. Haskell to assist, in perfecting a plan for their formation."

Officers elected: Pres., Geo. I. Butler; Sec., U. Smith; Treas., Mrs. A. P. Van Horn; Ex. Com., Geo. I. Butler, Ira Abbey, S. N. Haskell.

March 19, death of Elder Joseph Bates, at Battle Creek, Mich.; burial in Monterey, Mich.

Denominational school opened in Battle Creek, Mich., by Prof. G. H. Bell, June 3, 1872, under supervision of General Conference Committee.

EDUCATIONAL WORK BEGUN.

1873: Eleventh session of the General Conference convened in Battle Creek, Mich., March 11, 1873. Eighteen delegates, representing thirteen conferences and one mission.

Important actions: Took steps to form educational society, and establish denominational school; translation of publications in foreign languages.

Officers elected: Pres., Geo. I. Butler; Sec., U. Smith; Treas., E. B. Gaskill; Conf. Com., George I. Butler, S. N. Haskell, H. Lindsay.

Organization of the California Conference, Feb. 15, 1873.

The twelfth annual session of the General Conference convened in Battle Creek, Mich., Nov. 14, 1873, twenty-one delegates being present, representing thirteen Conferences and one mission.

"The call for a Conference at the present time was for the purpose of arranging matters preparatory to extending the work on the Pacific Coast, sending a missionary [Elder J. N. Andrews] to Switzerland, etc.;" \$52,000 pledged to denominational school.

Important actions: Organization of General Tract and Missionary Society arranged for; committee appointed for the formation of the Educational Society preparatory to the establishment of a denominational school.

Officers elected: Pres., Geo. I. Butler; Sec., S. Brownsberger; Treas., E. B. Gaskill; Ex. Com., Geo. I. Butler, S. N. Haskell, Harmon Lindsay.

WORK ENTERED UPON IN OTHER LANDS.

1874: Thirteenth session of the General Conference convened on the camp-ground in Battle Creek, Mich., August 10, 1874. Nineteen delegates, representing thirteen conferences and one mission.

Important actions: Organization of "General Conference Tract and Missionary Society;" recommended J. N. Andrews as missionary to Switzerland.

Officers elected: Pres., James White; Sec., U. Smith; Treas., Harmon Lindsay; Ex. Com., James White, Geo. I. Butler, S. N. Haskell.

Seventh-day Adventist Educational Society organized March 11, 1874.

September 15, J. N. Andrews left Boston, on steamship "Atlas," of the Cunard Line, for Liverpool, en route to Switzerland. First missionary sent outside United States. With him were his two children, Charles M. and Mary F., also Ademar Vuilleumier, who was returning to Switzerland. Party reached Neuchatel, Switzerland, October 16.

- 1875: Fourteenth session of the General Conference, convened on the camp-ground in Battle Creek, Mich., August 15. Eighteen delegates, representing thirteen conferences and one mission.

Important actions: Regarding health reform; work in foreign lands; on the Pacific Coast; and regarding leadership.

Officers elected: Pres., James White; Sec., U. Smith; Treas., Miss Freddie House; Ex. Com., James White, J. N. Loughborough, J. N. Andrews.

Organization of the Kansas Conference, Sept. 10, 1875.

- 1876: The first special session of the General Conference convened in Battle Creek, Mich., March 31, 1876. "Ten out of the fourteen State Conferences were represented by delegates, the others by letters."

Important actions: The payment of the tithe; appropriation of \$1,000 as an educational aid fund; \$10,000 appropriated for the publishing house in Basle; approval of the plan of Conference and church organization.

Fifteenth session of the General Conference, convened on the camp-ground at Lansing, Mich., September 19. Sixteen delegates, representing fifteen conferences and one mission.

Leading work: Importance of paying tithes; support of publication of paper in Europe; health reform principles approved; camp-meetings recommended.

Officers elected: Pres., James White; Sec., C. W. Stone; Treas., U. Smith; Ex. Com., James White, S. N. Haskell, D. M. Canright.

Organization of the Missouri Conference, June 2, 1876.

The second special session of the General Conference was held at Battle Creek, Mich., November 12 and 13, 1876. This was not a regularly convened Conference session; but "there being a sufficient number of brethren present, the General Conference Committee called them to unite with themselves in deliberations upon Conference business."

Important actions: Revival of the General Conference Tract and Missionary Society, and plans laid for increased distribution of literature.

- 1877: Sixteenth session of the General Conference, convened on the camp-ground at Lansing, Mich., Sept. 20. Twenty delegates, representing fifteen conferences and three missions.

Leading actions: Opening of work in Denmark; encouragement given to workers in foreign languages; approval of Biblical institutes; of the gift of the spirit of prophecy; donations encouraged; record books and blanks devised; that "the highest authority under God among Seventh-day Adventists is found in the will of the body of that people, as expressed in the decisions of the General Conference, when acting within its proper jurisdiction."

Officers elected: Pres., James White; Sec., U. Smith; Treas., Mrs. M. J. Chapman; Ex. Com., James White, S. N. Haskell, D. M. Canright.

Organization of North Pacific Conference, October 25, 1877.

ORGANIZATION OF SABBATH-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

- 1878: The third special session of the General Conference was convened in Battle Creek, Mich., March 1, 1878. Delegates present from twelve States.

Important actions: The holding of sixteen camp-meetings recommended; the organization of a General Sabbath-school Association, with auxiliary State Associations, arranged for; work of Battle Creek College approved; commendation given plan of holding quarterly meetings of churches; brethren requested to loan funds to Health Reform Institute (Battle Creek Sanitarium).

There was no election of officers held during the session. Elder S. N. Haskell acted as chairman of the meetings.

Seventh-day Adventist Sabbath-school Association organized March 4, 1878.

Seventeenth annual session of the General Conference, convened on the camp-ground in Battle Creek, Mich., October 4. Thirty-nine delegates, representing sixteen conferentes and six missions.

Important actions: Adoption of forms for church letter (prepared by U. Smith); increased efforts among foreigners in the United States.

Officers elected: Pres., James White; Sec., U. Smith; Treas., Mrs. M. J. Chapman; Ex. Com., James White, S. N. Haskell, D. M. Canright.

Organization of the Nebraska Conference, Sept. 25, 1878; Texas, November 18.

1879: Fourth special session of the General Conference convened in the Tabernacle in Battle Creek, Mich., April 17. Twenty-nine delegates, representing twenty conferences and two missions.

Important actions: Ministers recommended to labor in one field for one year; tithing system adopted, and recommended to members, and time of payment stated; Foreign Mission Secretary provided; "home and foreign educational fund" created; removals to Battle Creek disapproved; church records blanks perfected; education at denominational schools urged; republication of "Experience and Views" decided upon; strengthening of work in Scandinavia; health and temperance work commended; establishment of German paper recommended; influence of Battle Creek Sanitarium to be extended throughout the field.

The President, James White, being absent on account of sickness, the meeting was called to order by the Secretary, U. Smith. D. M. Canright acted as Chairman throughout the session.—Review and Herald, April 24 and May 1, 1879.

The Tabernacle in Battle Creek, Mich., dedicated April 20, 1879. Total cost of building, \$25,475.17.

Eighteenth annual session of the General Conference convened in the Tabernacle in Battle Creek, Mich., November 7, with thirty-nine delegates, representing twenty conferences and two missions.

Important actions: Districting of State conferences recommended; statistical and financial reports to be rendered by local conference secretaries to General Conference Secretary; duty of ministers to present subjects of health and temperance; spiritual gifts; obligation to pay tithes; that the General Conference furnish credentials or licenses to those in its employ; work in Southern field considered; election of Mission Board of nine members; "that none but those who are Scripturally ordained are properly qualified to administer baptism and other ordinances;" "that we consider it inconsistent for our Conferences to grant credentials to individuals to occupy official positions among our people, who have never been ordained or set apart by our people;" special effort for

the circulation of the writings of Mrs. E. G. White; qualifications of ministers defined; circulation of Good Health strongly urged; Ontario attached to Michigan Conference; ministers to furnish quarterly reports of labor, expenses, and receipts.

Officers elected: Pres., James White; Sec., U. Smith; Treas., Mrs. M. J. Chapman; Ex. Com., James White, S. N. Haskell, Geo. I. Butler.

Organization of Pennsylvania Conference, September 17; Tennessee River, October 14, 1879.

1880: The fifth special session of the General Conference was held in the Tabernacle in Battle Creek, Mich., March 11-15, 1880, attended by twenty-eight delegates.

Important actions: General plan regarding organization of local and State Tract and Missionary Societies outlined; approval of the plan of holding annual sessions of Conferences in connection with general camp-meeting; the manner of holding tent-meetings outlined; election of church officers, in cases of dissatisfaction; compensation of ministers for their labor; distribution of laborers left with the General Conference Committee.

New officers were not elected at this session, the old officers remaining in office.

The nineteenth annual session of the General Conference convened on the camp-ground in Battle Creek, Mich., October 6, 1880. Thirty-eight delegates were present, representing twenty-one Conferences and five missions.

Important actions: Simplicity of dress recommended; "that no church should devote any portion of its tithe to the erection or repairing of its church, without the free consent of the State Conference Committee;" the Denmark Conference received into the General Conference; report from J. N. Andrews stating that there were 188 Sabbath-keepers in Switzerland and Germany.

Officers elected: Pres., Geo. I. Butler; Sec., U. Smith; Treas., Mrs. M. J. Chapman; Ex. Com., Geo. I. Butler, S. N. Haskell, H. W. Kellogg.

Organization of Conferences as follows: Upper Columbia, May 27; Denmark, May 30; Quebec, August 16; Dakota, Sept. 16, 1880.

1881: The twentieth session of the General Conference assembled in the Tabernacle at Battle Creek, Mich., December 1, with forty-one delegates, representing sixteen Conferences and two missions. Session closed December 19.

Important actions: Preparatory department of the Battle Creek College separated from College proper; preparatory schools recommended in the States; a study of the Spirit of Prophecy recommended, as constituting a distinguishing feature of the third angel's message; course of reading for ministers outlined; that the General Conference President be freed from local responsibilities; blanks for church records prepared; "that State Conferences pay their tithe to the General Conference, quarterly;" "that the General Conference Committee act as trustees for all funds which have been heretofore, or may hereafter be raised for any missionary or other enterprise, in all cases where no other person or persons have been specified to act as trustees for the same;" steps taken to raise \$10,000 on the indebtedness of Battle Creek College; increased efforts in the canvassing work; plainness of dress exhorted, and theater and circus attendance discouraged; constitution amended;

work among Danish and Swedish in the United States encouraged; G. H. Bell requested to prepare a series of Sabbath-school lessons; manufacture or use of domestic wines discountenanced.

Officers elected: Pres., Geo. I. Butler; Sec., A. B. Oyen; Treas., Mrs. M. J. Chapman; Ex. Com., Geo. I. Butler, S. N. Haskell, U. Smith.

August 6, death of Elder James White, aged 60 years; burial in Battle Creek, Mich.

- 1882: The twenty-first annual session of the General Conference met in Rome, N. Y., December 7, 1882, continuing until December 19, with forty-seven delegates, representing twenty-six Conferences and six missions.

Important actions: Proposition to enlarge General Conference Committee to five defeated; consideration given to Conference boundary lines; constitution amended; enlargement of work in Europe reported; the publication of a German paper recommended for that field; reports received regarding work of schools recently opened in Healdsburg (April 11, 1882), and South Lancaster (April 19, 1882); Sweden (organized March 12) and Colorado (organized September 26) admitted as Conferences, and the organization of the European Council approved; receipting and auditing of tithes recommended; health reform recommended as an element of Christian character; the temporary closing of the Battle Creek College endorsed; preparation of report on foreign missions recommended.

Officers elected: Pres., Geo. I. Butler; Sec., A. B. Oyen; Treas., Mrs. M. J. Chapman; Ex. Com., Geo. I. Butler, S. N. Haskell, J. Fargo.

- 1883: The twenty-second annual session of the General Conference assembled in the Tabernacle at Battle Creek, Mich., Nov. 8, 1883. Sixty-five delegates were present, representing twenty-six Conferences and three missions.

Important actions: Virginia Conference (organized March, 1883) admitted; annual publication of Year Book recommended; canvassing work encouraged; transfer of laborers considered beneficial; preparation of church manual considered inadvisable, as tending to the formation of a creed or discipline; translation of leading denominational books recommended; constitution amended to make Executive Committee five; reporting of proceedings to secular papers encouraged; series of Bible readings arranged for; plans laid to meet the questions involved in Sunday legislation; opening of work in Pacific Islands encouraged; republication of "Testimonies to the Church" recommended.

Officers elected: Pres., Geo. I. Butler; Sec., U. Smith; Cor. Sec., Mrs. F. H. Sisley; Treas., A. R. Henry; Ex. Com., Geo. I. Butler, S. N. Haskell, W. C. White, J. Fargo, O. A. Olsen.

- 1884: Twenty-third annual session of the General Conference convened in Battle Creek, Mich., October 30.

Important actions: Admission of Central European Conference (organized May 26, 1884); constitution amended; report received from Central European Missions; that ministers should pay tithes; that believers keep themselves free from secret organizations; "that steps should be immediately taken to open a mission in Australia;" that two more ministers be sent to Great Britain; that S. N. Haskell, J. O. Corliss, and others go to Australia to establish a mission there; removal of believers from Battle Creek

encouraged; licentiates or local elders not permitted to solemnize marriage; organization of General Conference Association recommended; publication of a new Hymn Book provided for; publication of the American Sentinel approved; "that this Conference recognize the duty of individuals in changing their place of residence, to transfer their membership, and to pay their tithes to the churches with which they thus unite."

Officers elected: Pres., Geo. I. Butler; Sec., U. Smith; Cor. Sec., Mrs. M. J. Chapman; Treas., A. R. Henry; Ex. Com., Geo. I. Butler, S. N. Haskell, O. A. Olsen, W. C. White, J. Fargo.

- 1885: The twenty-fourth annual session of the General Conference convened in Battle Creek, Mich., November 18, the seventy delegates present representing twenty-eight Conferences and three missions.

Important actions: Committee on preparation of Hymn Book elected, and plan of work outlined; "that L. R. Conradi go to Europe;" important report regarding arrests for Sunday labor; resolution respecting triune immersion; Review and Herald recommended to open department for sale of Danish-Norwegian and Swedish publications; the tithing system endorsed; regarding the granting of ministerial credentials; additional workers recommended to Europe; that the General Conference be incorporated; that excommunicated members be not received elsewhere without reconciliation; camp-meeting advertisement provided for; city mission work recommended; workers' institutes recommended for local conferences; education and discipline of laborers advised; resolutions regarding Sabbath-school offerings and donations on the Sabbath; jurisdiction of local elders defined; statement of authority conferred by ministerial license; money consideration in transfer of conference territory discouraged; theological query regarding contract work on the Sabbath; that \$60,000 be raised for missions; Christmas donations, week of prayer, with suitable readings arranged for; "that \$40,000 be raised to pay the present indebtedness of Battle Creek College, and to erect additional buildings;" "Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation," approved, and its sale by subscription urged.

Officers elected: Pres., George I. Butler; Sec., U. Smith; Cor. Sec., Mrs. M. J. Chapman; Treas., A. R. Henry; Ex. Com., Geo. I. Butler, S. N. Haskell, O. A. Olsen, W. C. White, R. A. Underwood.

- 1886: The twenty-fifth annual session of the General Conference convened in Battle Creek, Michigan, November 18, seventy-one delegates representing twenty-eight Conferences and three missions.

Important actions: Publication of Holland paper recommended; report on program of camp-meetings and workers' meetings; health reform approved; "that all ministers pay their tithes to the treasurer of the church to which they belong;" the superficial wearing of gold and costly apparel disapproved; amendment to constitution increasing Executive Committee to seven; local conferences requested to pay tithes quarterly; educational services recommended at camp-meetings in behalf of denominational schools; operations of General Conference Association defined; establishment of labor bureau; "that over \$100,000 be raised the present Conference year for mission work;" week of prayer services recommended; approval of resolution of the Sabbath-school Association to meet the expense of establishing a mission in South Africa, and

supporting it for one year; monthly financial reports of missions required; plan for the payment of funds in State Conferences; translation of publications into foreign languages; work among the French in the United States encouraged; reporting of camp-meetings encouraged; examination of ministers as to educational qualifications provided for; that the case of J. W. Scoles, prosecuted for Sunday labor, be appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States; obligation assumed by General Conference Association, in the Scandinavian Publishing Association, of Christiania, Norway; question of rebaptism; aiding worthy but needy students; improvement of the ministry; denominational recognition in Russia, first non-Protestant country entered (1886).

Officers elected: Pres., Geo. I. Butler; Sec., U. Smith; Cor. Sec., Mrs. M. J. Chapman; Treas., A. R. Henry; Ex. Com., Geo. I. Butler, S. N. Haskell, O. A. Olsen, W. C. White, R. A. Underwood, U. Smith, A. J. Breed.

- 1887: Twenty-sixth annual session of the General Conference was held at Oakland, California, November 13 to December 3, and at Battle Creek, Michigan, Dec. 11 and 12, 1887, with seventy delegates representing thirty Conferences and eight missions.

Important actions: Admission of Norway (organized June 10) and West Virginia (organized Sept. 15, 1887) Conferences; parliamentary usage in conduct of business; Constitution of General Conference amended to provide for a Foreign Mission Secretary, a Home Mission Secretary, and an Educational Secretary; missionary ship "Pitcairn" suggested; International Publishing Committee appointed; general Book Committee of thirteen provided; instruction in methods of Bible work recommended; manual training in denominational schools approved; first general canvassing agent named; resolution respecting church and state, and Sunday labor; first-day offerings recommended; payment of pledges; endorsement of plan for week of prayer and Christmas offerings; General Conference Association reorganized December 15; that the fiscal year of the General Conference close June 30 of each year; the marrying of persons scripturally divorced.

Officers elected: Pres., Geo. I. Butler; Sec., U. Smith; Cor. Sec., W. H. Edwards; Treas., A. R. Henry; Foreign Mission Sec., W. C. White; Home Mission Sec., E. W. Farnsworth; Educational Sec., W. W. Prescott; Ex. Com., Geo. I. Butler, W. C. White, S. N. Haskell, O. A. Olsen, R. A. Underwood, U. Smith, R. M. Kilgore.

Establishment of local or church schools recommended by the Educational Society.

- 1888: The twenty-seventh annual session of the General Conference was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 17 to November 4, and at Battle Creek, Michigan, November 8, 1888; with 91 delegates, representing thirty-two Conferences and five missions.

Important actions: Arkansas (organized May 21) and Australia (organized in September) admitted as Conferences; provision made for General Conference Committee to issue delegates' credentials; received reports regarding A. J. Cudney's attempted missionary trip to Pacific Islands; monthly counsel meeting of church officers recommended; protest "against the manufacture and sale of all spirituous and malt liquors," and the discarding of the "use of tea, coffee, opium, and tobacco;" young persons recommended to Sanitarium Training-school for nurses; organization of health and

temperance societies encouraged; union of church and state opposed; delegation to Senate Committee appointed; branch publishing houses approved; "that the General Conference Daily Bulletin should be published at every session of the Conference;" that foreign mission fields be visited by a member of the General Conference Committee at least once every two years; reorganization of the Foreign Mission Board; jurisdiction of the Central European Conference defined; accounts of foreign laborers to be audited by local boards, and approved by general Auditing Committee; instruction in city mission work arranged for.

Officers elected: Pres., O. A. Olsen; Rec. Sec., Dan. T. Jones; Cor. Sec., W. H. Edwards; Home Mission Sec., Geo. B. Starr; Foreign Mission Sec., W. C. White; Educational Sec., W. W. Prescott; Treas., H. Lindsay; Ex. Com., O. A. Olsen, S. N. Haskell, W. C. White, R. A. Underwood, R. M. Kilgore, E. W. Farnsworth, Dan. T. Jones.

- 1889: The twenty-eighth annual session of the General Conference was held in Battle Creek, Michigan, October 18 to November 5, 1889. The 109 delegates present represented thirty-four conferences and seven missions.

Important actions: The Atlantic (organized September 27) and New Zealand (organized May 27) Conferences admitted; reported death of Elder J. H. Waggoner, in Basle, Switzerland, April 17; American Sentinel endorsed, and recommended to be published in New York City; District Canvassing Agents provided; International Sabbath-school Association to be supplied with workers; transfer of Battle Creek church to General Conference; plan of first-day offerings approved; missionary ship "Pitcairn" provided for, to cost \$12,000; organization of church-schools; erection of Union College planned; Bible schools for ministers; Kentucky and Tennessee divided; districting of the United States; committee on consolidation of publishing interests appointed; General Conference Association recommended to manufacture tents; recommended division of Michigan Conference into three parts; Constitution amended, providing that the General Conference hereafter "shall hold a regular session every alternate year, reckoning from 1889," and that sessions be held in the spring.

Officers elected: Pres., O. A. Olsen, and an Ex. Com. of nine members.

National Religious Liberty Association was organized July 21, at Battle Creek, Mich. Name changed later to International; and in 1901 made a department of the General Conference.

- 1890: There was no session of the General Conference in 1890. The following note appears in the Year Book for 1891: "In sending out our Year Book for 1891, we can not place before our readers the doings and deliberations of the General Conference as in past years, as that body now meets only once in two years, instead of yearly."

Review of work done by the General Conference Committee: That tithes be not used for erecting church buildings; state corporations and buildings of depositories discouraged; school recommended for Southern field.

- 1891: The twenty-ninth session (first biennial session) of the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference was held at Battle Creek, Mich., March 5-25, 1891. One hundred and twenty-five delegates were

present, representing thirty-three conferences and seven mission fields."

Important actions: Three-fourths Battle Creek church tithe to General Conference; establishment of small local papers discouraged; granting of credentials and licenses limited; health and temperance principles commended; medical missionary workers to hold credentials from International Health and Temperance Association; weekly offerings to missions encouraged; establishment of school at Walla Walla, Wash., recommended; local enterprises involving large debts not to be started without the sanction of the denomination; wills, legacies etc.; financial statement of Mission Board to be published quarterly; school recommended for Australia; report of committee on consolidation of publishing interests, which recommended the increase of the trustees of General Conference Association from five to twenty-one members.

"The objects of this new organization shall be—

1. To hold the title of all our denominational publishing houses and the equipment thereof.
2. To own, publish, and control the sale of all our denominational books, tracts, and periodicals.
3. To secure . . . the plates and copyrights of all our denominational books, to appoint editors and managers, and to take a general supervision of the work of the various offices."

Actions by the Committee: "That Union College be dedicated October 24;" relation of health work to general body defined.

Officers elected: Pres., O. A. Olsen, with Ex. Com. of nine members; committee on Foreign Missions, of six; Book Committee of thirteen; General Conference Association Executive Board, twenty-one.—General Conference Bulletin, issued in Battle Creek, Mich., March 6 to April 13, 1891.

Mrs. E. G. White, W. C. White, and other helpers sailed for Australia November 12.

1892: No session of the General Conference held during 1892.

South African Conference organized Dec. 8, 1892.

1893: "The thirtieth session (second biennial session) of the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference was held at Battle Creek, Mich., February 17 to March 6, 1893. One hundred thirty delegates were present, representing thirty-four conferences and eleven mission fields."

Important actions: Appeal from decision of U. S. Supreme Court regarding this being a Christian nation; memorial to Tennessee Legislature; repudiation of the doctrine of exemption of church property from taxation; that the Present Truth be published weekly; work in Hamburg, Germany, firmly established; workers in Australia increased, and \$10,000 voted to school enterprise; opening of work in India; self-supporting missionaries called for; increased publications in foreign languages; denominational control of periodicals; appointment of editors; unification of publishing interests; foreign districts defined; General Conference Association Executive Committee of five provided; expense of members attending board or committee meetings; district conferences; division of tithes with General Conference; establishment of Mt. Vernon Academy; constitution amended; S. D. A. Medical Missionary and Benevolent Association organized, and co-operation invited in its work; maintenance of Haskell Home and James White

Memorial Home; "that a Conference school be opened in Texas;" denominational control of Graysville Academy assumed; calls for mission work, \$255,000; improvement of the ministry; taxation of orphanages, etc.

Officers elected: Pres., O. A. Olsen; Executive Committee of eleven; committee on Foreign Missions, six members; Book Committee, thirteen members; G. C. A. Ex. Board, 21 members.—General Conference Bulletin, issued in Battle Creek, Mich., January 27 to March 26, 1893.

1894: There was no session of the General Conference held in 1894.

From the year 1890 to 1904 there was no Year Book issued, the denominational statistics being published in the General Conference Bulletin.

Work begun in Matabeleland, the first mission opened by this denomination in a non-Christian land.

1895: The thirty-first session (third biennial session) of the General Conference was held in the Tabernacle, Battle Creek, Michigan, Feb. 15 to March 4, 1895. The 150 delegates present represented thirty-five Conferences and eleven missions.

Important actions: The Conferences of Oklahoma (organized Aug. 31, 1894) and Florida (organized Sept. 22, 1893) admitted as Conferences; rejection of grants and donations from civil governments; district committees appointed, and duties defined; district councils provided; editorial control and general policy of denominational papers with the General Conference; religious liberty work encouraged; statement by Sister White regarding consolidation of publishing interests.

(By the Committee): That the General Conference Bulletin be published quarterly during the biennial period, with extras during the sessions.

Officers elected: Pres., O. A. Olsen; an Executive Committee of eleven members; Foreign Mission Board of eight members; General Conference Association of twenty-one members.—General Conference Bulletin, issued at Battle Creek, Mich., February 4 to March 5, and April, 1895.

1896: There was no session of the General Conference during this year.

1897: The thirty-second session (fourth biennial session) of the General Conference was held at College View, Nebr., February 19 to March 8, and at Battle Creek, Mich., March 10, 1897.

Thirty-seven Conferences and nineteen missions represented.

Important actions: Admission of the New South Wales Conference (organized in October, 1895); reports from opening of work in Japan, Matabeleland, and South America; "division of responsibility, a division of territory, and a change in the manner of working of committees and boards;" General Conference territory divided into three grand divisions; Mission Board of nine members to have charge of all mission territory; union conferences to be organized; Executive Committee of the General Conference increased to thirteen members; Book Committee discontinued; constitution revised; auditing of Union Conference laborers' accounts by Union Conferences; delegate representation on ratio of 500 members; proceeds of missionary farming and gardening to the Medical Missionary and Benevolent Association; amended by-laws of the General Conference Association; publishing work transferred from the International Tract Society to the publishing houses.

Officers elected: President of the General Conference in North America, G. A. Irwin; President of European Union Conference, O. A. Olsen; President of Australasian Union Conference, A. G. Daniells; an Executive Committee of thirteen members; General Conference Association of twenty-one members.—General Conference Bulletin, issued at Lincoln, Nebr., February 12 to March 8, and at Battle Creek, Mich., first quarter, 1897.

1898: There was no session of the General Conference during this year. July 14, European General Conference organized.

Action by General Conference Committee: That the fiscal year close December 31 of each year.

1899: The thirty-third session (fifth biennial session) of the General Conference was held at South Lancaster, Mass., February 15 to March 7, and at Battle Creek, Mich., March 9, 1899.

Important actions: Admission of British (organized Aug. 3, 1898), German (organized July 20, 1898), and Montana (organized Oct. 5, 1898) Conferences; proposal to hold General Conference sessions once every four years lost; report of educational work; weekly offerings for foreign missions; plan of second Sabbath services in behalf of missions; local conferences asked to support laborers in foreign fields; appointment of editors by General Conference; that denominational schools be made self-supporting; establishment and support of church-schools; general collection for Haskell Home twice a year; envelope plan of first-day offerings; constitution amended to include Presidents of Union Conferences as members of Executive Committee; South Lancaster Sanitarium provided for; Sabbath-school donations in foreign fields to be retained by those fields.

Officers elected: Pres., G. A. Irwin; Executive Committee of thirteen; General Conference Association of twenty-one.—General Conference Bulletin, issued at South Lancaster, Mass., February 16 to March 7, and at Battle Creek, Mich., March 16, 1899.

1900: There was no session of the General Conference during this year.

1901: "Thirty-fourth session (sixth biennial session) of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists convened at Battle Creek, Mich., April 2, 1901, at 9 A. M.," and closed April 23.

Important actions: Admission of the Conferences of Ontario (organized June 18, 1899), Queensland (organized Oct. 20, 1899), South Australia (organized November 25), and Cumberland (organized Sept. 14, 1900); appointment of general committee for arranging and transacting the business of the Conference; organization of Union Conferences perfected; General Conference Committee increased to twenty-five members; foreign mission work to be under supervision of the General Conference Committee; appointment of boards of management, titles of property, and obligation for debts, of local institutions transferred to Union Conferences; International Sabbath-school Association dropped, and work made a department of Conference; similar action with reference to the International Religious Liberty Association; local Conferences recommended to pay a second tithe and to support laborers in mission fields; wages of accredited laborers; "that our Conferences everywhere be urged to adopt and further develop the ten-cent-a-week plan for the support of our foreign work, as inaugurated by the Foreign Mission Board last year;" Bible teachers in educational institutions to be paid from tithe; payment of debts

of educational institutions, and of the Scandinavian Publishing House urged; provision made for building for the American Medical Missionary College; importance of establishing church-schools urged; "church-schools should continue their work to the sixth or seventh grade, and intermediate schools to the ninth or tenth;" organization of young people's societies approved. (By the Committee) "That all dealings with men under pay of the General Conference, who are located in the Union Conferences, be through the officers of the Union Conferences."

Officers elected: President, A. G. Daniells; Executive Committee of twenty-five.—General Conference Bulletin, issued at Battle Creek, Mich., April 2 to April 20, 1901.

At the close of the year there were fifty-seven local conferences organized, forty-one missions in operation, and eleven Union Conferences directing the work.

1902: There was no session of the General Conference held this year.

The main building of the Battle Creek Sanitarium was destroyed by fire, beginning at 4:00 A. M., Feb. 18, 1902.

The main building of the Review and Herald office at Battle Creek, Mich., was destroyed by fire, Dec. 30, 1902, beginning at 7:30 P. M.

1903: The thirty-fifth session (seventh biennial session) of the General Conference was held in Oakland, Cal., March 27 to April 13, and at Battle Creek, Mich., April 22, 1903.

Important actions: Union Conferences recognized as composing the General Conference; a forward movement in behalf of foreign mission work inaugurated; definite, per cent of the regular tithes of conferences to be set apart for foreign work; plan of giving ten cents a week for foreign missions recommended; "that the General Conference offices be removed from Battle Creek, Mich., to some favorable place for its work in the Atlantic States;" the General Conference Committee to have supervision of missionary operations; "that the General Conference Association reduce its number of trustees from twenty-one to seven;" provision made for the support of aged laborers and dependent widows and orphans; General Conference Sabbath-school Department to direct work for young people; that Sabbath-school officers be elected by the church; Australasian Union Conference territory increased; financial assistance to be rendered institutions in Southern field; work of Southern Missionary Society approved; assistance rendered medical missionary work in the South; opening of work in German East Africa; adoption of cash policy; removal of Review and Herald suggested; the International Medical Missionary and Benevolent Association requested to become a department of the General Conference; general plan outlined for reorganization of institutions, bringing them fully under denominational control; educational conference called; establishment of intermediate schools recommended, and the work of, outlined; "that Sabbath-school contributions be not used for local church or church-school expenses;" Sabbath-school contributions to missions, payment of office expenses, salaries, etc., provided for; Sabbath School Worker to be re-established; systematic circulation of literature recommended; Union Conference depositories; transfer of Review and Herald territory; appointment of general advisory publication committee; assistance rendered Southern Publishing Association; thorough revision of

constitution, providing delegate representation on basis of 1,000 church membership; membership of Conference to consist of Union Conferences, and such local Conferences as are not embraced in any Union Conference as have been or shall be properly organized and accepted by vote; the following-named constituting the departments of the General Conference: Sabbath-school, educational, religious liberty, publishing, and medical.

Officers elected: Pres., A. G. Daniells; Executive Committee of twenty-seven.—General Conference Bulletin, issued at Oakland, Cal., March 30 to April 14, 1903.

During preceding biennial term there were twelve union and twenty-three local Conferences organized.

At the close of the year there were seventy-eight local Conferences and forty-eight missions in operation, with thirteen Union Conferences and two Union Missions directing the work.

The dedication of the new building of the Battle Creek Sanitarium occurred May 30 to June 1, 1903.

REMOVAL OF HEADQUARTERS TO WASHINGTON, D. C.

1903: August 10, General Conference headquarters transferred to 222 North Capitol St., Washington, D. C., from Battle Creek, Mich.

August 20, date of first issue of Review and Herald from Washington, D. C., preparatory to removal of publishing work from Battle Creek, Mich.

1904: June 15, Elder I. H. Evans appointed Receiver for the Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Association, of Battle Creek, Mich.

September 21, date of first issue of the Signs of the Times, from Mountain View, Cal., and the removal of the office of the Pacific Press Publishing Co., from Oakland, Cal.

Sixty-eight general and local camp-meetings held during 1904 in the Union Conferences in North America; about fifteen in other countries.

1905: On the 12th of January, 1905, the entire property of the Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Association, of Battle Creek, Mich., was sold by public auction, at Marshall, Mich., by the Receiver, Irwin H. Evans, to the Review and Herald Publishing Association, of Washington, D. C., for \$126,000. This sale was confirmed by the court, Feb. 13, 1905.

In February, 1905, the General Conference offices and all its departments were transferred from 222 North Capitol St., to Takoma Park Station, Washington, D. C.

April 16 occurred the dedication of the new factory of the Pacific Press Publishing Company at Mountain View, Cal.

The thirty-sixth session (eighth biennial session), of the General Conference was held in Takoma Park, Washington, D. C., May 11 to 30, 1905, with 197 delegates, representing 78 Conferences and 50 Missions. Twenty-nine of the delegates were from fields outside of the United States and Canada. Thirty-five meetings were held, in which were adopted the following—

Important Actions:

Establishment of headquarters in Washington, D. C., approved; that the regular sessions of the Conference be held once in four years; endorsement of the plan of sharing laborers with needy foreign fields, and its further adoption recommended.

Departments

The following constitute the departments of the General Conference: Publishing, Medical, Sabbath-school, Religious Liberty, Educational, and North American Foreign; the members of said committees to be appointed by the General Conference Committee.

Medical Missionary

Medical Missionary Department created, and council provided, to assist in advancing medical missionary interests in all parts of the world; that conference institutions be placed under the management of local boards elected by the conference, or by such arrangement as the conference may provide.

Educational

Educational Department to consist of twenty-five members from all parts of the world, to be appointed by the General Conference Committee; sixteen grades adopted as the standard of educational system, with division as follows: Primary schools, 1-7; intermediate schools, 8-10; colleges, 11-16. General plan adopted for unifying educational interests of General, Union, and State Conferences; that conventions be held; that no primary schools be established or discontinued without advice or counsel from the conference officials; that intermediate schools should not be established without the co-operation and counsel of the Union Conference; an examining board to be appointed to provide questions and conduct examinations for the promotion of students and the granting of certificates to teachers.

North American Foreign

This department consists of five members or more, to labor in behalf of the various foreign nationalities in North America.

Publishing

That a depository for foreign publications be established in New York City; that the sale of subscription books be given special attention; that a general missionary campaign be entered upon.

Financial

That an appeal in behalf of the payment of a faithful tithe be prepared to be placed in the hands of every Sabbath-keeper in the world; that uniform envelopes be prepared by the General Conference for the collection of tithes and offerings weekly; that the tithe be not used for building purposes, the maintenance of church-schools, or for church expenses, but be devoted entirely to the support of evangelistic work and Bible teachers; organization of the General Conference Corporation, a corporation of Washington, D. C., approved, and advice given that all future legal business with the denomination be done with this organization, and hence that the General Conference Association transfer its business thereto.

That the General Conference assume no financial responsibility whatsoever in any institution, corporation, or enterprise in any part of the world without a direct action by the General Conference or by the General Conference Committee; that care be taken to conduct all denominational institutions and enterprises on safe business lines; the Mission Board recognized as the proper custodian of all general mission funds, and that such funds be forwarded monthly;

a revision of forms and blanks for collecting funds, and the form of report blanks recommended.

Young People's Work

That the Sabbath-school Department of the General Conference give special attention to work for the young people; that young people's societies unite in the support of one or more laborers in some mission field; that a vigorous educational campaign be carried on in behalf of this work.

"Ministry of Healing"

Relief Bureau organized for the sale of "Ministry of Healing," for the payment of Sanitarium indebtedness and the better equipment of such institutions, and the basis of such work outlined.

Second Tithe

A study and adoption of the second tithe by our people recommended, the funds so obtained to be used in educational, philanthropic, charitable, and missionary work.

Foreign Fields

Hearty support pledged for the great unworked mission fields.

Finances

That fifteen per cent of regular unspecified offerings coming into the General Conference treasury be used for the payment of past deficits; that \$15,000 be returned to the Review and Herald Publishing Association, in lieu of bona fide claims which that Association has given up against the General Conference Corporation through the Battle Creek College property.

Officers Elected

President, A. G. Daniells; Vice-Presidents, for Europe, L. R. Conradi; for America, G. A. Irwin; Secretary, W. A. Spicer; Treasurer, I. H. Evans. The committee elected consisted of thirty-one members; the full complement is thirty-four.

Camp-meetings held during 1905; United States, 96; Europe, 9; Australasian, 5; British Guiana, 1; total, 111.

During 1905 evangelistic work was begun in eighteen countries.

1906: At the thirty-first annual session of the Pacific Press Publishing Company, held in February, there was reported the transfer of a majority of the shares of this corporation to a new membership corporation which had been formed June 23, 1904, thus vesting the control of the publishing work to the Pacific Press Publishing Assn., a corporation more largely representative and more nearly denominational.

The Loma Linda Sanitarium, located near Redlands, Cal., was dedicated on the 15th of April.

June 19, Pacific Educational Association voted to sell Healdsburg College, and establish the Pacific Union College and Normal Institute in a more suitable location.

An Educational Convention held at College View, Nebr., June 28 to July 10, attended by about 125 teachers, conference officials, and delegates, at which relation of courses were assigned as follows: Church-school, grades 1-8; intermediate, 7-10; academies, 9-12; colleges, 13-16.

At a meeting of the General Conference Committee, held Sep.

tember 27 to October 3, plans were laid to raise a fund of \$150,000 for various institutional and foreign mission enterprises; forty-one persons were recommended to fourteen fields outside the United States.

During 1906 seven local conferences were organized, and eight new mission stations were opened.

108 camp-meetings were held throughout various Union Conferences in the world.

1907: A general meeting of the workers in Japan and Korea was held in Tokyo, Japan, January 1-11.

The general meeting for India, Burma, and Ceylon, held at Calcutta, Dec. 28, 1906, to Jan. 12, 1907, was attended by over fifty workers from those fields.

The general council of the twenty-two workers in China was held at Shanghai, February 10-20.

On the 23d of March the first church of Seventh-day Adventists in Burma was organized by Elder G. B. Thompson, at Rangoon, with a membership of twenty-three.

A meeting of the General Conference Committee was held at Gland, Switzerland, May 9-25, attended by seventeen members of the General Conference Committee, two vice-presidents, and about seventy-five representatives of European Conferences. Definite calls were received for over eighty workers for foreign mission fields. This was the first general representative council of the denomination held outside the United States.

The Walla Walla Sanitarium was dedicated June 3.

A medical missionary convention was held in Takoma Park, D. C., June 9-12.

The Washington Sanitarium was dedicated June 12.

At Mt. Vernon, Ohio, July 10-20, a convention of 200 representatives organized the department since known as Young People's Missionary Volunteer Department.

September 8 occurred the dedication of the new building of the Pacific Press Publishing Assn., at Mountain View, Cal., which had been erected at a cost of \$22,597.68. The building is a one-story structure, 127 x 171 feet, and has about 22,000 square feet of floor space.

The Western Canadian Union Conference was organized October 18-22, at a meeting held at Leduc, Alberta, Canada.

The St. Helena Hospital, containing forty rooms, was dedicated October 20.

A medical missionary convention was held at Loma Linda, Cal., October 29-31.

On the 28th of October occurred the dedication of the buildings, and the estate comprising the headquarters of the British Union Conference, at Watford, England.

The fourth session of the Atlantic Union Conference was held at Philadelphia, Pa., November 21-27. At this session it was voted to divide the conference, the southern portion, with the addition of Ohio, being formed into what is called the Columbia Union Conference.

An institute of German workers was held in Chicago, Ill., November 29 to December 9, attended by fifty workers, representing about 3,200 German brethren in America.

1908: At the third session of the Southern Union Conference, held at

Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 9-19, 1908, it was voted to divide the conference, forming the Southeastern Union of the Conferences of Cumberland, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

At the annual meeting of the Pacific Press Publishing Assn., held at Mountain View, Cal., Jan. 27, 1908, it was reported that the net gains for the year were \$21,159.96.

1909: The thirty-seventh session of the General Conference held in Washington, D. C., May 13 to June 6, 1909, with 328 delegates in attendance, representing twenty-one Union Conferences, 104 local Conferences, and seventy-two missions; thirty-nine of the delegates were from fields outside North America. Forty-three meetings were held, in which were adopted the following —

Important Actions:

Work in foreign fields to be more vigorously prosecuted; a three hundred thousand dollar fund started for institutional work and missionary homes in foreign fields; ten-cent-a-week per member for foreign offerings in addition to the \$300,000 fund; local and Union Conferences asked to appropriate to foreign work from one-fourth to one-third of their total tithe receipts, funds to be remitted monthly; corporate organizations to preserve investments to the denomination, with elective franchise and controlling power in the denomination, and not with individuals.

Publishing Work

Training of general and field missionary agents urged; commercial work eliminated; improvement in literature; publishing houses invited to pay tithe; periodical and home tract and missionary work to be continued under the direction of the Publishing Department.

Sabbath-school Work

To prepare a reading course for teachers; home department approved; recommended that all donations from Sabbath-schools go to missions.

Educational

Improved equipment for school work urged; correspondence school recommended; educational journal to be established; work and scope of different classes of schools defined; conferences invited to send students to Foreign Mission Seminary in preparation for foreign service; advanced normal diplomas; sale of "Christ's Object Lessons" recommended to relieve schools of indebtedness; cooperation with self-supporting schools; schools providing first twelve grades of work to be established in foreign fields for children of missionaries.

Religious Liberty

Religious liberty institutes recommended; annual collection divided equally between General, union, and local Conferences; a Press Bureau to be established.

Medical Missionary

Work in sanitariums to be arranged to provide experience in field for nurses; requirements for entrance to medical missionary classes and work defined; three-year course provided; plans outlined for freeing institutions from indebtedness.

Young People's Work

Approval of the action of the General Conference Committee in establishing a Missionary Volunteer Department, and the work and plans of this department approved.

Miscellaneous

A vigorous temperance campaign recommended; work among foreign population in America; plans for city work; North American Negro department organized and basis defined; revision of church hymn book advised; workers in foreign fields to acquire foreign languages; medical examinations for missionary candidates.

Officers Elected

President, A. G. Daniells; Vice-President for Europe, L. R. Conradi; Vice-President for North America, G. A. Irwin (resigned July 11, 1911, and W. T. Knox elected to fill vacancy July 12, 1911); Vice-President for Asiatic Division, I. H. Evans; Secretary, W. A. Spicer; Treasurer, W. T. Knox. The Executive Committee consisted of forty-two members. Members of Departments number as follows:—

Sabbath-school	10
Publishing	58
Educational	35
Medical	25
Religious Liberty	24
Young People's	35
North American Foreign	28
North American Negro	18

Total members of Departments 233

1910: November 28 the General Conference Committee voted that, beginning with Jan. 1, 1911, a sustentation fund be provided "for the support of sick and aged laborers and the widows and children of deceased laborers," said fund to be made up of five per cent of the tithe receipts of each local and Union Conference, and of the General Conference. Surplus funds above \$5,000 appropriated annually to missions.

1911: Biennial council of the General Conference Committee held in Friedensau, Germany, July 4-15, 1911, attended by thirty-one representatives from outside of Europe, and 122 European representatives. At this meeting it was recommended that an average of fifteen cents per week per member be raised as a general fund for missions, to include "all donations to missions."

A special report covering work conducted by the denomination in non-Christian and non-Protestant countries for 1911, indicates that the denomination was conducting work in forty-seven non-Protestant countries, and twenty non-Christian lands, supporting laborers in these lands who speak seventy-three different languages and dialects, and issuing publications in sixty-four different languages for circulation in the countries designated. The total number of foreign missionaries was 586, and of native helpers, 974, a total force of 1,560. There were 140 main stations, 145 sub-stations; 413 churches, with 17,565 adherents; 13 training-schools, having an enrolment of 724; 192 schools and out-schools, with an enrolment of 6,730. Total foreign teachers numbered 103, and native teachers,

262. The number added in 1911 was 2,679, or a gain of 22.74 per cent. The income from the mission fields for 1911, was \$135,234.87, and the amount added thereto by the home base, was \$357,587.73.

The progress made in entering these fields may be illustrated thus: Beginning with 1886, when work was first undertaken in a non-Protestant land, the next decade saw the opening of work in 17 different countries, or 25.38 per cent of all the countries that have been entered; during the next decade, from 1896—1905, work was begun in 29 countries, or 43.28 per cent of all; during the six years following, to 1911, 21 other countries have been entered, or 31.34 per cent of all. Thus work in 50 new countries has been begun during the past sixteen years, or 74.62 per cent of all that have been entered since 1886. Total adherents in the 67 countries constituted 15.74 per cent of total communicants. Including work in Christian lands, there were 85 countries in which work was conducted at the close of 1911, the communicants in Christian lands constituting 84.26 per cent of total.

1912: Central European and Danube Union Conferences organized in Europe. During this year ninety-seven additional laborers were sent to foreign fields, and the following increase was made in organizations: Conferences, 10; missions, 10; schools, 2; publishing houses, 1; new languages in which publications were issued, 1.

1913: The thirty-eighth session of the General Conference was held in Washington, D. C., May 15 to June 8, 1913, with 372 delegates present, representing twenty-three union conferences, 126 local conferences, and 100 mission fields. Thirty-five meetings were held, in which were adopted the following—

Important Actions:

The territory of the General Conference hereafter to embrace the North American and European Division Conferences, and the Asiatic Division Mission and all other union and local conferences and missions. Delegate representation to be on the basis of one delegate for each division, union, or local conference, and an additional delegate for each 500 members.

Financial

The standard of offerings to mission was raised from fifteen cents to twenty cents a week per member in the United States and Canada, twenty-five per cent of which to be devoted to the liquidation of the liabilities of all training schools, and those academies, intermediate schools, and sanitariums whose liabilities equal or exceed twenty-five per cent of their assets.

Publishing

Leaders trained in colporteur work to be placed over every important field; selections from Testimonies to be translated into many languages; union of book and periodical work.

Educational

Joint educational and young people's convention arranged; approval of plans for training foreign missionaries at the Foreign Mission Seminary; spheres of work of various educational institutions defined.

Young People's Missionary Volunteer

Conferences urged to foster this line of work; junior societies encouraged; institutes arranged.

Religious Liberty

Union conference secretaries to be appointed; lectures, campaigns, and institutes planned.

Sabbath-school

Offerings on thirteenth Sabbath for definitely named missionary enterprises.

Medical Missionary Work

The training and development of evangelistic nurses encouraged.

Sustentation Fund

Benefit of sustentation fund extended to include colporteurs, teachers, and physicians.

Miscellaneous

Quarterly statistical reports arranged for; reading course for ministers planned, to include Biblical, historical, and pastoral subjects; church librarians to be more thoroughly trained; home missionary secretaries to be appointed to build up the church and tract and missionary work; transfer of membership from one church to another by church letter only; laborers discontinued in one field not to be engaged in another without thorough examination.

Officers Elected

President, A. G. Daniells; Vice-President for North America, I. H. Evans; Vice-President for Europe, L. R. Conradi; Vice-President for Asiatic Division, R. C. Porter; Secretary, W. A. Spicer; Treasurer, W. T. Knox. The Executive Committee of the General Conference consists of fifty-one members. The members of the Committee, together with the members of the Departments of both the General and the North American Division Conferences make a total of 328.

